

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

December 11, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

The Governor's Residence

Indianapolis, Indiana

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Mirro, Karen Ellerbrook, Earl Williams, Irene Smith-King, Kelly Schreckengast, Suzie Rentschler, Jon Ford, Dick Stifel, Gil Cárdenas, Pam Hicks, Linda Levell, Linda Goad

Members via teleconference: Jan Shupert-Arick

Members absent: Judy Hess, Carol Trexler, Sandi Clark

Guests: Lawren Mills, Michael Kos, Sue Burk

IAC Staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Susan Britsch, Kristina Davis, Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Ms. Mirro called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She then thanked everyone who had arranged for the receptions of the previous evening.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Mr. Stifel moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Chair's Report.**

A. Ms. Mirro welcomed the newest IAC Commissioner, Linda Goad from Carmel, who is attending her first business meeting.

B. Ms. Mirro remarked upon the importance of the work of the Arts Commission and its "cultural footprint", and stressed the importance of attendance, not only at the quarterly business meetings, but especially at committee meetings. She also emphasized the "historical significance" of the arts.

C. Ms. Mirro reminded the meeting that there is one vacancy on the Commission, that being the seat of Sandra Clark from Bloomington, whose second term expired in June 2009, although Ms. Clark continues to serve until she is replaced. The next commissioner who will fulfill two full terms is Irene Smith-King, whose second term will expire in June 2010; commissioner Kelly Schreckengast will complete her first term in June 2010 and is expected to be re-appointed by the Governor. Ms. Mirro encouraged all members to continue to identify

individuals who would serve well as commissioners, so that nominations may be submitted regularly to the Governor's office.

D. Revised budget for FY 2009-2010. Mr. Ricci reported on the latest budget cuts imposed by the state budget office – an additional 5% hold-back imposed upon the remainder of the FY2010 budget. He presented slides showing month-by-month revenues at the state level, all of which have fallen far short of expectations; he presented an additional slide showing the forecast revenues for the remainder of FY2010, which are also expected to fall far short of expectations. He then presented a handout (attached) showing where, within the IAC budget, additional cuts could be made to achieve the mandated additional 5% hold-back. These additional cuts have been discussed and approved by the Committee on the Future and the Executive Committee. The proposed cuts include a 4.5% reduction to Regional Block grants, community arts programming, and Majors grants, with the remainder being cut from the IAC in-house administrative budget. Mr. Ricci stressed that Individual Artist grants and Education grants have not been affected. He also presented a handout (attached) showing the monetary amounts of the affected grants after the proposed cuts. Ms. Levell moved to approve the proposed changes in the FY2010 IAC budget. Ms. Smith-King seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Regional Partnership Status Issues.

1.. Arts Council of Southern Indiana (New Albany). Mr. Ricci reviewed for the Commission that the Arts Council of Southern Indiana has been suspended as a Regional Arts Partner, and that the Executive Committee, in its meeting on December 2, passed a motion recommending to the full Commission that the Arts Council of Southern Indiana not be invited to apply for continued Arts Partner status. Ms. Smith-King moved that the recommendation of the Executive Committee be approved. Ms. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Bloomington Area Arts Council. Mr. Ricci reviewed for the Commission that the Bloomington Area Arts Council has been suspended as a Regional Arts Partner, and that the Executive Committee, in its meeting on December 2, passed a motion recommending to the full Commission that the Bloomington Area Arts Council not be invited to apply for continued Arts Partner Status. Ms. Levell moved that the recommendation of the Executive Committee be approved. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana (Evansville) and Arts United (Fort Wayne). Mr. Ricci reviewed that both of these organizations scored below 80 on the latest application panel review, and that such a score automatically triggered an independent review of their status as Regional Arts Partners. The independent reviews are in progress, and are mostly complete with the exception of the financial portion. The portions which have been completed do not show glaring weaknesses such as had been shown in reviews of other organizations; both organizations, however, have been shown to be concentrating funds and services in the major metropolitan areas of their regions, with scant funds and services reaching the rural areas. The Program Evaluation Committee, in its last meeting, made no recommendation as to the status of these organizations as Regional Arts Partners. The FY2011 application cycle will begin before the full commission meets again in March 2010, and Mr. Ricci asked the Commission to

empower the Executive Committee to act on its behalf regarding the completed results of the reviews now in progress. Mr. Cárdenas asked if the two organizations had been informed of the partial results of the reviews and if they have shown willingness to make appropriate changes. Mr. Ricci replied that the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne have both received documentation, but that they have not had a reasonable time to respond. Ms. Smith-King remarked that seeing Regional Arts Partners struggle, with two organizations already being terminated, is worrisome. Mr. Cárdenas suggested that perhaps population density rather than geography should be the primary consideration in the distribution of funds and services. Ms. Mirro added that there is no written formula for Regional Partners to use to translate funds into rural delivery of services. Ms. Schreckengast asked rhetorically how it would even be possible to grade or gauge success or failure based on delivery of funding and services to rural areas. Mr. Ricci added that the magnet-center (population) approach might be more viable given the economic landscape. Mr. Stifel informed the members that the Committee on the Future will be meeting in special session on January 26, 2010, to more fully evaluate the future of the Regional Arts Partner system, given the struggles of the past year and the likelihood of further budget strain at the state level. Mr. Ricci added that a Regional Arts Partner retreat, to be hosted by IAC, is scheduled for February 3 – 4 in Columbus. Ms. Schreckengast would like to see assistance offered to those organizations that need help, and suggested that other partner organizations could offer ideas. Ms. Smith-King remarked that not all regions are the same in terms of population density or other parameters, and that no single model would fit all regions. Mr. Ricci said that the responsibility of the IAC is to see that funds are administered equitably. Ms. Schreckengast moved that the Regional Arts Partnership with the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana be continued, pending the final results of the independent review. Mr. Cárdenas seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ms. Hicks moved that the Regional Arts Partnership with Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne be continued, pending the final results of the independent review. Ms. Smith-King seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Executive Director's Report.

A. Year-to-date financial activity. Mr. Ricci presented a hand-out (attached) showing current budget activity through October 31, 2009. He thanked Deputy Director Michelle Anderson for her continuing work to keep IAC within budget.

B. State-Wide Capacity-building efforts. Mr. Ricci reminded the commission that funds formerly dedicated to individual Capacity-Building grants to organizations have been consolidated into a new program to provide assistance to a wider range of small and intermediate arts organizations. This program will manifest in two workshops to be held in Indianapolis in the spring of 2010. Mr. Ricci presented a proposal from ArtsLab (attached) for a two-day workshop focused on long-term goals, leadership, financial management, and community engagement. This workshop will be funded in part by Arts Midwest. The second workshop would be presented by the IU Center on Philanthropy/The Fundraising School, and would focus on fundraising techniques. No dates have been established for these workshops.

C. Arts Education Update. Ms. Britsch presented a handout (attached) reviewing a recent Education Leaders Institute meeting in South Bend, and an update on the 2010 Poetry Out Loud program.

D. Cultural Districts Update. Ms. Davis reported that a recent panel reviewed applications from seven organizations requesting Cultural District designation. Site visits have been completed for the top three scoring organizations. The commission will vote to accept these three organizations into the program under agenda item 5b. Mr. Williams asked how often applications will be reviewed; Mr. Ricci replied that it is undecided, but that they will be reviewed again in 2010, and then perhaps every two years following until a “saturation level” is attained.

E. Indiana Artisan Program update. Mr. Ricci presented a hand-out (attached) prepared by Artisan project manager Eric Freeman.

F. ArtsWork and NEA Accessibility Leadership Award. Mr. Ricci reported that the IAC is the winner of the 2009 National Accessibility Leadership Award, presented by the National Endowment for the Arts. He congratulated staff member Kristina Davis who wrote the grant application. The award comes with a \$30,000 grant, which will fund an appropriate new category in the FY2011 Individual Artist Program. Mr. Ricci and Ms. Davis both hope to attend the award ceremony in New York City on January 8th.

G. Regional Arts Partnership Overview. Mr. Ricci spent several minutes reviewing the history of the Regional Arts Partnership program, and presented slides showing the responsibilities of those organizations chosen as Partners, as well as the benefits and drawbacks to the system as it exists today. This review was to provide background information to the commission members prior to more in-depth discussions to come in January and February by the Committee on the Future, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, the RAP retreat, and ultimately by the full Commission at its next business meeting in March.

H. Regional Partnership Retreat Plans. Mr. Ricci emphasized the importance of the upcoming RAP retreat, to be held in Columbus on February 3 – 4. The objectives of the retreat are to provide input into the direction for the program given the current and likely IAC budget, as well as provide input for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Williams asked if other states have developed such a partnership program, and Mr. Ricci replied that some states have instituted parts of what makes up the Indiana program, but none is as comprehensive.

Ms. Mirro declared a brief break in the meeting at 10:50 a.m. She reconvened the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

5. Committee Reports.

A. Committee on the Future. Mr. Stifel, chair, reported on the new strategic planning process, which is now in the information gathering phase. He presented the minutes of the November 17 meeting (attached) during which prospective steering committee members were discussed. Invitations have now been extended to prospective members. An electronic survey has been sent out, and over 1,400 responses have been received so far. These responses will help to provide base-line information for the steering committee at its first meeting in 2010. Former commission chair Ron Stratten will be facilitator for the strategic planning process. The COF

will be meeting in special session on January 26, primarily to discuss the Regional Arts Partnership program, in light of current and anticipated IAC budgets. At this special meeting, there will be a spectrum of possible scenarios presented, including centralized and decentralized delivery of services to areas of the state. The Executive Committee has been invited to participate in this important meeting.

B. Program Evaluation Committee. Mr. Williams, chair, reported on the November meeting of the PEC, which included recommendations for approval of the first Cultural Districts. The PEC voted to approve three applicants for the designation, based on their scores in the paneling process. The organizations recommended for approval are: City of Bloomington, Carmel Redevelopment Commission, and Tippecanoe Arts Federation. Mr. Williams moved that the full Commission accept the recommendation of the Program Evaluation Committee and approve City of Bloomington, Carmel Redevelopment Commission, and Tippecanoe Arts Federation as Cultural Districts. Ms. Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Williams also reported that the PEC voted to recommend approval of 11 Arts In Education Grants, based on scores from the panel review of the applications. The recommended grants are to: North Adams Community Schools, Washington Catholic Schools, Greencastle Community School Corporation, Dickinson Intermediate Fine Arts Academy, Greater Clark County Special Ed Coop, Harrison Hill Academy, Brown County Schools, The Project School, Nicholson Performing Arts Academy at IPS #70, Batesville Community School Corporation, and Northwood Elementary School. Mr. Williams moved to approve the recommendation of the Program Evaluation Committee and award the Arts In Education Grants to these 11 applicants. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Advocacy and Awareness Committee. Ms. Ellerbrook, chair, reported that Donna Catalano from South Shore Arts has been appointed to the Advocacy and Awareness Committee. Ms. Ellerbrook then reviewed the successful Governor's Arts Awards which were held at Cornerstone Center for the Arts in Muncie on September 25. She then addressed advocacy efforts during the interim before the next legislative session begins in January 2010. State Senator Vi Simpson plans to introduce legislation to provide tax support for IAC-designated Cultural Districts, although there is little expectation that the legislation will be passed during the upcoming session. Ms. Ellerbrook then explained to the Commission that the next few months are a critical time to advocate for the FY2011 IAC budget. Mr. Ricci reported that the Advocacy and Awareness Committee had recommended that the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards be held in Indianapolis, due to the uncertainty of the budget and the wish to be cautious about raising expectations in communities that might want to host the GAA, in the event of funding cuts. Ms. Schreckengast offered the opinion that there indeed might be communities which would be willing to shoulder the financial responsibilities. Ms. Hicks agreed. Mr. Ricci emphasized that IAC wants the GAA to be hosted outside of Indianapolis for a variety of positive reasons, but that the reality of the economic landscape needs to be considered. Mr. Stifel suggested that commission members could study the possibilities within their own communities, to see if there would be legitimate contenders willing to take on the responsibilities of hosting the GAA in 2011. This suggestion was met with approval by the members. No action taken on the recommendation of the Advocacy and Awareness Committee to hold the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards in Indianapolis.

D. Cultural Trust Administrative Board. Ms. Mirro presented a handout (attached) showing the current balance (as of October 31, 2009) of the Cultural Trust to be \$1,805,020.11. In 2009, \$50,000 was drawn from interest to fund Arts In Education Grants.

6. **Regional Arts Partners Update.** RAP incoming chair Sue Burk presented a handout (attached) recounting the RAP meeting held in Indianapolis on December 10. She thanked Paige Sharp from Tippecanoe Arts Federation for her work on standardizing electronic grant applications.

7. **Old Business.** There was no old business.

8. **New Business.** Ms. Garver reminded the members that the 2010 Midwest Arts Conference will be held in Indianapolis in September 2010. She also asked members to consider serving as moderators for upcoming Individual Artist Grant panels. Mr. Hardin reported that all current commissioners and IAC staff members will need to complete mandatory on-line ethics training during 2010.

9. **Closing Comments.** Ms. Mirro again emphasized the importance of the work being done by the commission and the IAC staff, and encouraged all to keep up the good work.

10. **Adjourn.** Mr. Stifel moved to adjourn. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.